



# U.S. Department of State U.S. Embassy in Cairo

## *Between the Lines: International Writer's Program for Students*

### **Description**

In cooperation with the prestigious International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa, the U.S. State Department's Cultural Programs Division is pleased to announce an exchange opportunity for young writers from Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East - Between the Lines (BTL). The Program will take place at the University of Iowa from July 14 to July 28, 2012. These young writers will be immersed in one of the premier creative writing environments of the United States as part of an exchange that will broaden and sharpen their writing skills, deepen their understanding of American society, and build bridges with young American writers who will also participate in creative writing classes. Program activities will include writing workshops in both English and Arabic, seminars on literary topics, cultural visits, and other local events. At the culmination of the program, the students' writings (in both English and Arabic) will be collected into a printed booklet to be used for educational purposes.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

All students must be:

- Citizens, nationals or permanent residents qualified to hold a valid Egyptian passport.
- Between the ages of 16 and 19 as of July 12, 2012 and proficient in Arabic and English (reading, writing, and speaking).
- Demonstrate an interest in and ability to write creatively (fiction and/or poetry) and fully engage their imaginations in a variety of class settings.

### **Application Instructions**

All applicants are required to submit: a copy of passport or ID, updated CV, Contact Information Coversheet and all the following samples to [ExchangesCairo@state.gov](mailto:ExchangesCairo@state.gov) indicating the name of the program in the subject.

- a) A writing sample of 6-8 pages of prose and/or poetry in English
- b) A writing sample of 6-8 pages of prose and/or poetry in Arabic (different than the sample provided in English)
- c) A brief one-paragraph statement of purpose in English describing why the applicant is interested in participating in the BTL program
- d) A writing sample of 2-5 pages of prose and/or poetry in either language in response to one of the following writing prompts:
  - \* Your character has just walked into an empty room that contains an overturned chair, a torn envelope, and a set of keys. Write a story or poem describing what happened just before the character walked into the room.
  - \* Write a story or a poem inspired by the following statement: "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

**Important Remark:** All writing samples must be sent in 12-point font and have one-inch margins all around.

To download the Contact Information Coversheet, please visit: <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/pa/xchgs.html>

**Deadline for Applications: February 8, 2012, 4:30 p.m.**